

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 13976 291545Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----100101 291550Z /41
O 291420Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6785

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13976

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST
INFO THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), IT, VT
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ROME, SEPTEMBER 9-10-SCHEDULING

REF: ROME 13918

1. VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI INFORMS US THAT POPE
PAUL WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE SECRETARY IN PRIVATE
AUDIENCE, AT HIS SUMMER RESIDENCE AT CASTEL GANDOLFO, AT
5:00(FIVE) P.M. ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10.

2. MONSIGNOR CASAROLI RECALLED OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS
REGARDING SCHEDULED DEPARTURE 4:30 P.M. LOCAL AND APOLOGIZED
THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE AUDIENCE BEFORE
5:00 P.M.

3. WE SEE THREE POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION RE VATICAN:

A. WE COULD ACCEPT THE 5:00 P.M. APPOINTMENT,
REALIZING THAT THIS WOULD ENTAIL APPROX. AN HOUR AND ONE-HALF
DELAY IN SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE.

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B. WE COULD INFORM VATICAN THAT IN VIEW OF
NECESSITY FOR SECRETARY TO RETURN PROMPTLY TO
WASHINGTON, HE REGRETFULLY CANNOT DELAY HIS DEPARTURE
BUT WE WOULD OFFER, INSTEAD, A BRIEF CALL BY SECRETARY
ON FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI AT THE VATICAN AT
3:30 P.M.

C. WE COULD SIMPLY INFORM FONMIN CASAROLI THAT
IN VIEW OF SECRETARY'S NEED TO RETURN PROMPTLY TO
WASHINGTON TO REPORT ON THE VIENNA TALKS, HE REGRETFULLY
CANNOT DELAY HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE.

4. DURING LAST SEVERAL DAYS, WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING
INDIRECT HINTS VIA THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT PRESIDENT
LEONE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SECRETARY DURING HIS ROME
VISIT. THIS MORNING (AUGUST 29), WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT
FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI RECOMMENDS THAT SECRETARY MAKE
A BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.
FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SECRETARY
KISSINGER CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE VISITED ROME.
IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED
TO REQUEST COURTESY CALL BY THE SECRETARY ON PRESIDENT
LEONE. (IF AUTHORIZED, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE
A 20-30 MINUTE COURTESY CALL DURING THE MORNING OF
SEPTEMBER 10.)

5. PLEASE INSTRUCT SOONEST.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME13976
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770311-1069
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770812/aaaaajuo.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 50f35751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 ROME 13918
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1448744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ROME, SEPTEMBER 9-10-SCHEDULING
TAGS: OVIP, IT, VT, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/50f35751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009